

HCV sequence comprises, from 5' to 3' on the positive-sense nucleic acid, a functional 5' non-translated region (5' NTR); one or more protein coding regions, including at least one polyprotein coding region that is capable of replicating HCV RNA; and a functional HCV 3' non-translated region (3' NTR) and wherein said [polypeptide] polynucleotide further comprises an adaptive mutation.

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 3-24, 29, 41-44, 61-70 and 72-75 are now pending.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Kasten
Reg. No. 45,363
Howell & Haferkamp, L.C.
7733 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1400
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 727-5188

December 10, 2001